Expert Committee on Exempt Exempt Tax System

657. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the personnel for the Experts Committee proposed to be set up to work out the road map for moving towards and Exempt, Exempt Tax System (EET); and

(b) if so, by when the committee is likely to be set up and the time to be allowed to it to report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has set a Committee of Experts to work out the road map for moving towards an Exempt Tax method of taxation of savings. As per terms of reference, the Committee is required to submit its report by 30.11.2005.

Duping of Customers by Multinational Banks

658. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received regarding malpractices and duping of customers by multinational banks in the country during the last year and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have received complaints from customers of multinational banks alleging wrong doing by the banks. The complaints on examination are found to be in the nature of deficiency in services rendered by multinational banks.

(b) These complaints related to Credit Card Operations, Deposit Accounts, remittance/collection facilities, Loan/Advances, harassment in recovery of loans etc.

(c) In all cases of such complaints, the banks are required to have an

internal grievance redressal machanism. Accordingly, these cases of complaints are required to be redressed by the banks and when received at RBI referred to higher levels in the bank for investigation and rectification. The concerned banks redress the grievances when found genuine.

Sale of holding in Maruti Udyog

659. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to sell its entire holding in JV Maruti Udyog;

(b) the amount expected to be realised by divestment in MUL;

(c) whether the realised mony will be spent on social projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, how the realised amount is proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. The Government has decided to sell 8% equity of Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL), out of Government's residual holding of 18.28% to public sector financial institutions and public sector banks.

(b) The amount that would be raised would depend upon the market conditions and other relevant factors at the actual time of the sale.

(c) to (e) Since Maruti Udyog Limited is not a Central Public Sector Undertaking, the amount realised would go into the consolidated Fund of India and will be a part of the pool of resources available to the Government.

Increase in gold prices due to soaring oil prices

660. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the increase in crude oil prices has influenced rise in price of gold in domestic market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and